

Let me start off by saying I am a supporter of President Bush, so my political view on that is NOT what has prompted my writing of this letter. My view on freedom of speech and press and on the media's role in our country is what I must express.

Sinclair Broadcasting has decided to force their 62 networks to air an anti-Kerry movie just before the election. It surprises me, thought, that this is allowed when political ads and other partisan media is so highly regulated (and rightly so). This certainly is manipulative and fits under that category. It, too, must be stopped from being aired. The credibility of how our media works in times of harsh political debate is on the line.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their own interest and less of what we need for our democracy.

As someone that has a father working in the tv news business, I certainly see what media consolidation does not only to political voice but also people working for the media companies. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you for your time and attention to this very serious matter.